

REMARKS

Applicant submits this preliminary amendment contemporaneously with the filing of the above-designated application which represents a conversion of PCT/US2004/038250 into a U.S. national application. By this amendment, applicants make a claim for priority based on the PCT application and U.S. provisional application 60/518,941 that preceded the PCT application.

Apart from the claim for priority, this amendment cancels all claims of the PCT application, that is claims 1-19, and substitutes new claims 30-49 that better distinguish the invention over the references cited in the International Search Report rendered in connection with the PCT application. While the PCT application includes an International Preliminary Report on Patentability, that report does not differ in substance from the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority rendered in connection with the International Search. Both considered claims 1-29 with which the PCT application was published. In this regard, applicant requested a preliminary examination of the PCT application under Chapter II of the PCT, but inadvertently failed to supplement it with a response to the Written Opinion. Hence, the Preliminary Report on Patentability reached the same conclusions as the Written Opinion – word for word.

Revised claims 30-49 distinguish the sealing arrangement of the application from those of the references cited in the International Search Report, both from the standpoint of novelty and unobviousness. None of the references cited in the International Search Report show a duo cone seal having a wear ring

that fits into an axially directed extension on the outer race of an antifriction bearing, yet with the wear rings large enough to fit over the rolling elements of the bearing. The placement in the extensions keeps the diameter of the wear rings small enough to diminish the effects of housing and spindle deflection that would cause larger diameter rings to separate. Even so, the rings are large enough to enable the seal to be pulled without removing the inner race and rolling elements of the bearing.

Applicants submit an Information Disclosure Statement with this amendment to formally cite the references designated in the International Search Report. According to MPEP 609 III A(3), the identification of relevance of a reference in an International Search Report, such as by a letter code, satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.98 for a concise explanation of foreign language documents.

In view of the foregoing, early examination and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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